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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,938	04/02/2004	Dennis Gomes	A8523	8933

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

AHMED, MASUD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,938

Applicant(s)

GOMES, DENNIS

Examiner

Masud Ahmed

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/2/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner has considered the Information Disclosure Statement submitted by the applicant on 04/02/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harlick (US 5,941,773).

Regarding claims 1-2 and 10-11, Harlick teaches a randomly generated multiplayer reward system having following limitations:

From a pool of two or more gaming machines, randomly selecting one or more of the gaming machines from the pool at a predetermined reward time; determining the operational state of the machine or determining whether players playing the machine or not and awarding player with the predetermined reward (col 1, lines 35-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlick (US 5,941,773), in view of Rowe et al (US 2003/0013527).

Regarding claims 3-4, Harlick teaches a gaming system that determines the operational state of a gaming machine. However Harlick is silent on disclosing a player identifier associated with the active gaming machine. Rowe teaches a networked control gaming system having player tracker or player identification system where a player tracking system has an associated reward (para 0033, 0051), and it is well understood if the player tracker information is not available then the player or the user would be denied of any reward associated with the player tracking system. Player tracker system is very well known as disclosed by the applicant, therefore it would have been obvious to ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to include player tracker system in Harlick's system and make it mandatory in order to obtain a reward by the player so that casinos can track player activity and use that information for promotional purposes.

Regarding claim 5, Harlick's game system is multiplayer and multi-consoles game system that rewards player. Therefore one ordinary skilled artisan would recognize the system as one or more game machines are available for reward.

Regarding claim 6, Harlick's game system includes selection of gaming machine from the pool at the predetermined time intervals (fig 2 and 3, col 1, lines 57-61). Therefore it would have been obvious to ordinary skilled artisan at the time of invention to make the time intervals based on different criteria such as day, week or year or based on number of game play or player activity or the previous reward time to create more excitement among players.

Regarding claims 7-9, Harlick's game system discloses rewarding player randomly based on active state of the game machine and the reward can be a cash amount (col 3, lines 39-41). However Harlick is silent on associating player reward with the player identification system and providing player reward responsive to the player identification. Rowe teaches a player tracking multiplayer reward system capable of identifying the players and rewarding the players with cash, incentive points and complimentary services (para 0036 and 0091); a reward indicator announces a reward won by the player (para 0029). Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled artisan to include Rowe's player identifying reward system to Harlick's multiplayer reward system to create more excitement among player and give casino or the host a better business through the players' enrollment program in the system.

Claims 12-19 are rejected under same above references cited by the examiner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Masud Ahmed whose telephone number is 571 270 1315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30am-5: 30pm, Alt Fri, EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571 272 7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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1/3/08


RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1/7/08